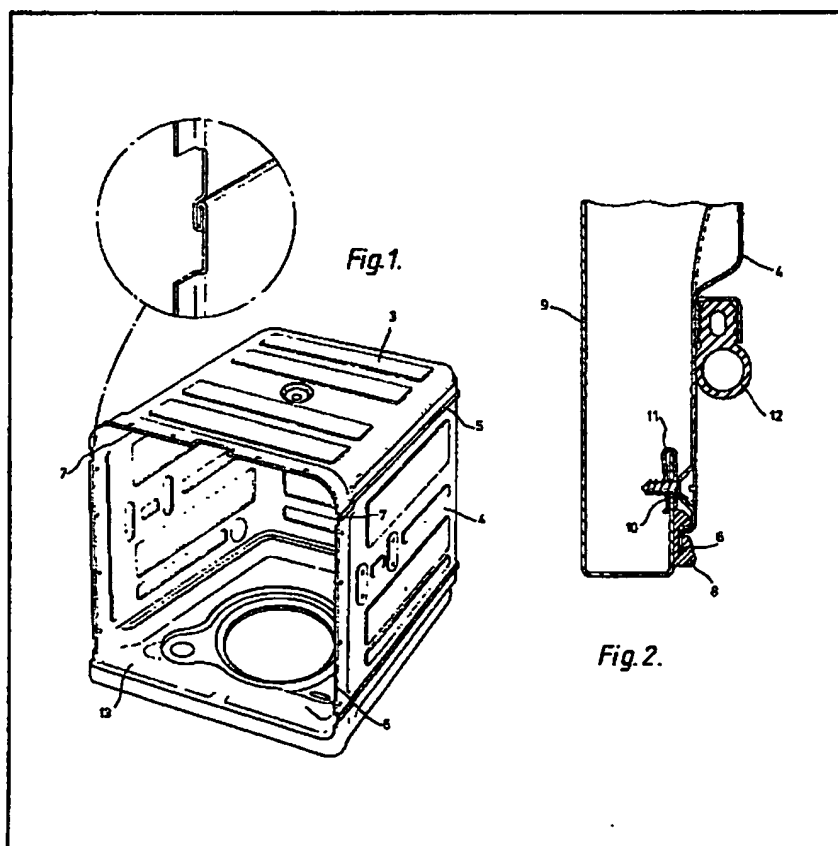


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(54) A metal tub for a dishwashing machine

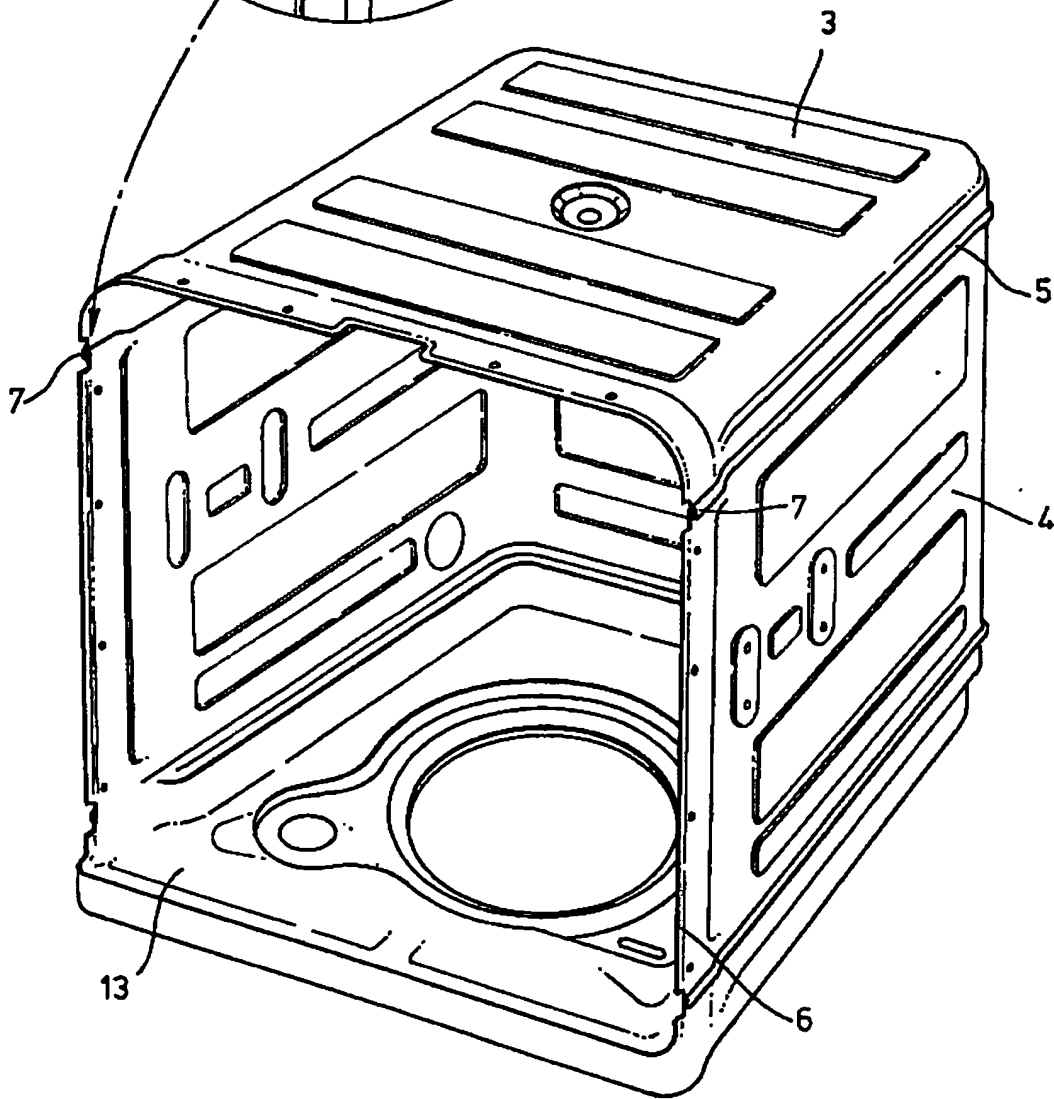
(57) A metal tub 3, 4 for a dishwashing machine has an access opening with rounded corners, the edge 6 of which is covered by a flexible edge covering 8 of predetermined thickness. The edge 6 may be provided with recesses 7. The depth of the edge covering 8 may be at least equal to the depth of the recesses 7. The edge covering 8 may be provided with a longitudinal channel shaped and adapted to prevent loosening of the covering.



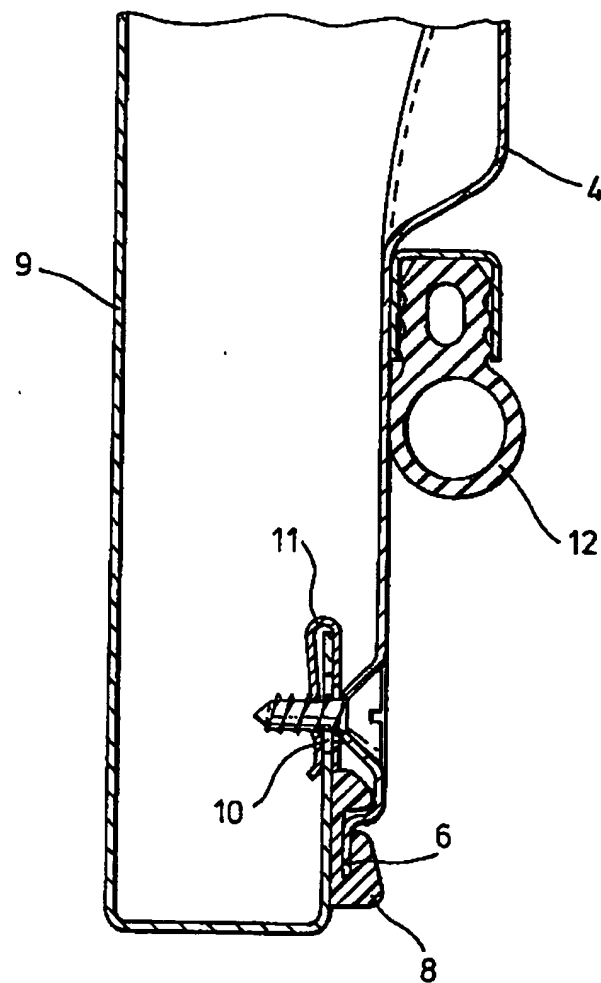
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Fig.1.



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*Fig. 2.*

## SPECIFICATION

### Metal tub for a dishwashing machine

- 5 The present invention relates to a metal washing tub, for a domestic dishwashing machine.

- It is known that steel tubs for dishwashing machines are normally made in a plurality of parts which are fixed together for example by means of a clasp or hooking arrangement, preferably in a horizontal plane, so as to form a substantially parallelepipedal structure having at least one open side for co-operating with the door liner of the machine. The edge of the access opening in the tub is a sharp cutting edge so that it should remain inaccessible to the user of the machine. In addition, because the edge of the tub is normally shaped, it must be provided with recesses or openings at the positions of the hooking connection regions, to permit this operation to be correctly performed by machine. The openings or recesses at the edge of the tub must be concealed for aesthetic reasons. The recesses and the sharp edge are concealed for example by flanging and bending over the edge of the tub which, when the arrangement is subsequently assembled, is covered at the front by the support casing of the machine.

- According to the present invention, there is provided a metal tub for a dishwashing machine, the tub being of substantially parallelepipedal shape and provided with an access opening which is shaped to have rounded corners and whose edge is covered by a flexible edge covering means of predetermined thickness.

- As will be apparent from the following description, the invention can provide a metal tub for a dishwashing machine, the edge of which, which forms a sharp cutting edge, is concealed in a simple and rapid manner without the necessity for an additional working operation in the true and proper sense. The tub can be mounted directly, without taking account of the protrusion of the line of hooking connection means, on a support casing which may be dimensioned for housing a tub of plastics material.

- The features and advantages of the invention will be clearly apparent from the following description, given by way of non-limiting example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

- Figure 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a metal tub for a dishwashing machine embodying the invention, without any edge covering means;

- Figure 2 is a view in partial section of a wall of a support casing for a dishwashing machine, associated with a tub according to the invention.

- Referring to Figure 1, the tub according to the invention is formed by at least two parts 3 and 4 of stainless steel, which are joined together by means of a hooking connection along a perimeter 5. The tub is open at the bottom (for fixing the base 13) and at a front face which is arranged for co-operating with the access door of the dishwashing machines.

In conventional manner, the access opening of the

tub has an edge 6 which forms a sharp edge provided with recesses or openings 7 in the regions of the hooking connection.

- The upper part 3 of the tub is so shaped that the access opening is formed with rounded corners.

- Referring now also to Figure 2, in the vicinity of the edge 6, the walls of the tub are of a cross section which is substantially shaped in a stepped configuration and the edge 6 is covered by a flexible edge covering means 8 having a longitudinal channel which is correspondingly shaped and adapted to prevent the edge covering means from becoming loose.

- The edge covering means 8 can be fitted onto the edge 6 by sliding it from below and by following the inside perimeter of the access opening, the rounded shape of the corners of which assists in the sliding motion.

- After the edge covering means 8 has been fitted, the tub can be fixed to the support casing 9 of the machine.

- Such fixing may advantageously be effected, whenever the sides of the casing are shaped as shown in Figure 2, by laterally screwing the tub on to loose holes or buttonhole-like apertures 10 in the casing, with the interposition of respective apertured plates 11 which are of a U-shaped configuration and which are arranged to clasp the return edge of the casing.

- Before the screwing operation, the plates 11 are partially movable with respect to the casing 9 whereby the tub can be mounted in the correct position independently of the tolerances in respect of the positioning of the fixing holes on the tub and on the support casing. By virtue of this arrangement, it is always possible accurately to adjust the degree of crushing of the door seal 12 which is fixed in known manner to the interior of the tub.

- Normally, the thickness of the walls of a steel tub is of the order of 0.5 mm, while the thickness of the edge covering means 8 is advantageously about 3 mm, that is to say, equal to the thickness of the walls of a normal tub for a dishwashing machine of plastics material and sufficient to compensate for the protrusion of the connection line 5. In addition, the depth of the edge covering means 8 is at least equal to that of the recesses 7 (Figure 1) which are thus completely concealed.

- For the above-indicated reasons, the edge covering means 8 not only makes it possible to cover the cutting edge 6 of the tub with a simple and rapid manual operation, but it also makes it possible to produce a metal tub whose overall dimensions correspond to those of a similar plastics tub. This makes it possible to use the same support casing 9 for supporting either a washing tub of metal or a washing tub of plastics material, as is an aim of the invention, without the necessity for any modification.

### CLAIMS

1. A metal tub for a dishwashing machine, the tub being of substantially parallelepipedal shape and provided with an access opening which is

shaped to have rounded corners and whose edge is covered by a flexible edge covering means of predetermined thickness.

2. A metal tub according to claim 1 wherein said edge is provided with recesses, the depth of the edge covering means being at least equal to the depth of the recesses.

3. A metal tub according to claim 1 wherein the walls thereof are of a cross-section which is stepped in the vicinity of said edge, the edge covering means being provided with a longitudinal channel which is correspondingly shaped and adapted to prevent unthreading thereof.

4. A metal tub constructed and arranged substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

5. A dishwashing machine having a tub according to any one of the preceding claims.

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